

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Gary A. Winfield & the Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom  
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Connecticut General Assembly  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Co-Chairs Winfield & Stafstrom and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Angel Martin, and I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut as well as a volunteer at COLAGE, an organization for children of LGBTQ+ families. I am proud to testify in support of **Raised Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act**. The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) will update the state's parentage law to promote the security of all children. Currently, Connecticut parentage law is outdated and unconstitutional, and it leaves many children without the protection of a legal relationship with their parents. The CPA will correct harmful gaps in current Connecticut law, and help to align the law to the realities of modern families.

My brother and I were raised in Danielson, Connecticut by our lesbian mom. We grew up in a conservative part of the state where we did not know any other LGBTQ families. We were in elementary and middle school 15 to 20 years ago before same sex marriage was legal. I often had to conceal the truth about my family structure to avoid persecution and bullying from my classmates and their families. There were strong social sentiments about heterosexuality being superior and that being gay was immoral, repulsive, and made people bad parents. I can say from my lived experience that my mom did a great job raising us. Additionally, I had several medical issues as a child, and if my own mother was not permitted to have a legal relationship with me during those uncertain times of my life simply because she is a lesbian, I do not think I would have made it through some of my medical scares.

My heart is very invested in this issue because I know what it's like to be on the margins of what is "normal" and "legal." I feel passionate about rights for LGBTQ+ families. Every child deserves adequate protection regardless of their family structure

I urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to pass the Connecticut Parentage Act, and affirm their commitment to LGBTQ+ parents and children in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony regarding Proposed Bill No. 6321.

Sincerely,  
Angel Martin

111 North St.

Danielson, CT 06239